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Lexington Rally Speech

Geraldine Ferraro

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INTRODUCTION

SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

WHEN I WAS IN KENTUCKY LAST MAY FOR THE DERBY, I TOLD GOVERNOR COLLINS IT WAS THE MOST EXCITING RACE I'D EVER SEEN.

WELL, MARTHA, I'M SORRY TO TAKE THAT BACK IN FRONT OF SO MANY PEOPLE, BUT. . . . I HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.

THIS FALL CLASSIC IS A STAKES RACE. / THE POLLSTERS AND PUNDITS MAY HAVE ALREADY CALLED IT, BUT THEY'RE GOING TO BE SURPRISED AT THE FINISH LINE IN NOVEMBER. /

KENTUCKY HAS GIVEN ITS HEART TO SO MANY FIGHTING UNDERDOGS WHO WENT ON TO WIN IN YOUR DERBY. / I KNOW YOU'LL BE WITH US IN THIS RACE FOR THE FUTURE.

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE KENTUCKY IN THE FALL. OUR STATE CAMPAIGN CHAIR, SENATOR FORD, IS ^{ALREADY GETTING} ~~GOING TO TAKE~~ OUT THE VOTE WE NEED.

I JUST WANT TO TELL HIM AND SENATOR HUDDLESTON THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO PRESIDING OVER THEM IN THE SENATE NEXT YEAR.

BUT YOUR SENATORS AND GOVERNOR ARE ONLY PART OF A TRULY ^{outstanding team} ~~THOROUGHbred~~ ^{ba sheer} ~~ADDOCK~~ OF PUBLIC SERVANTS. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR STEVE BASHIER (~~ba sheer~~), SUPERINTENDENT ALICE MCDONALD AND STATE SENATORS GEORGIA POWERS AND TERRY MANN / ARE ALL AMONG THE BEST ELECTED OFFICIALS IN AMERICA. /

TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR. / AMERICANS HAVE RARELY HAD A MORE CLEAR CHOICE BETWEEN CANDIDATES THAN THEY DO THIS YEAR. ^{November}

AND SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TO ME LAST WEEK MADE ME REALIZE HOW

DIFFERENT OUR TWO PARTIES ARE.

* * * * *

*He was too busy
doing housework!
That line got him
a laugh*

Independence

THE OTHER DAY AT TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL IN ~~KANSAS CITY~~, A
STUDENT ASKED ME WHETHER HE SHOULD REGISTER AS A DEMOCRAT OR
A REPUBLICAN. I ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT OF THE ARMS RACE.
HE SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT. ~~AND THAT~~ *But it* MADE
ME THINK ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE.

WE ARE NOT A SELFISH, SELF-CENTERED PEOPLE. AMERICANS
THINK OF MORE THAN JUST THEMSELVES. WE ARE A GENEROUS
PEOPLE, AND NOT ONLY GENEROUS: WE'RE BOUND TOGETHER LIKE A
FAMILY.

LIKE A FAMILY, WE OWE AN OBLIGATION TO EACH OTHER AND --
MOST IMPORTANTLY -- TO THE NEXT GENERATION.

THAT IS SOMETHING I LEARNED FROM MY OWN FAMILY.

MY FATHER CAME TO THIS COUNTRY THINKING THE STREETS WERE
PAVED IN GOLD. HE DIDN'T FIND GOLD, BUT HE FOUND GOLDEN
OPPORTUNITIES. HE AND MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME THERE IS NO GREATER
GOOD -- NO FINER REWARD -- THAN TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR
OUR CHILDREN.

I KNOW THAT LEGACY IS NOT UNIQUE TO MY FAMILY. FROM THE CHILDREN OF THE MAYFLOWER TO THE CHILDREN OF ELLIS ISLAND -- ALL OF US HAVE WORKED TO OPEN NEW DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHILDREN.

THE FACT THAT I STAND HERE TODAY -- THE ^{daughter} ~~CHILD~~ OF AN IMMIGRANT -- IS PROOF THAT AMERICA'S DREAMS DO COME TRUE.

BUT THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING OF WHAT WE ALL LEARNED AT HOME. THERE WERE MANY THINGS OUR FAMILIES TAUGHT US. / AND SOME OF THOSE THINGS WOULD HELP US AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. /

NO FAMILY WOULD SADDLE ITS CHILDREN WITH A MOUNTAIN OF UNPAID BILLS AND I.O.U.'S. / BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION -- WITH ITS 200 BILLION DOLLAR YEARLY DEFICITS -- IS DOING JUST THAT.

A DEFICIT ISN'T EASY TO UNDERSTAND. / YOU CAN'T SEE IT. YOU CAN'T SMELL IT. / YOU CAN'T TOUCH IT. / BUT YOU CAN FEEL A DEFICIT. / AND YOU'RE FEELING IT RIGHT NOW. /

IF YOU ARE A BUSINESSMAN OR A FARMER TRYING TO BUY NEW EQUIPMENT,
YOU FEEL THE DEFICIT.

IF YOU ARE A YOUNG FAMILY TRYING TO BUY A NEW HOME, OR PARENTS
TRYING TO FINANCE YOUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, THEN YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS
TO INTEREST RATES WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS BORROWING EVERY
DOLLAR IT CAN GET ITS HANDS ON.

BUT WHATEVER ^{you} DO, AND HOWEVER ^{you} LIVE, ^{you} MUST ASK YOURSELVES
THIS: HOW LONG CAN WE CONTINUE A CREDIT CARD RECOVERY BEFORE THE BILL
COMES DUE?

I'M AFRAID TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

FRITZ MONDALE AND I CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THE AMERICAN FUTURE
TO LET THE SEA OF RED INK CONTINUE TO RISE.

WE WANT AN ECONOMY FREE FROM HIGH INTEREST RATES. WE WANT
A SOCIETY WHERE NEW FAMILIES CAN AFFORD TO BUY HOMES. AND WE WANT
A NATION WHERE PEOPLE CAN STAND UP AND SAY, "I WANT TO START MY OWN
BUSINESS" -- AND THEN DO IT.

RONALD REAGAN WON'T TELL YOU HIS PLANS FOR THE DEFICIT.
FRITZ MONDALE AND I ARE LAYING OUT OUR PLAN THIS MORNING. WE SAY

IF THE DEFICIT CAUSES HIGH INTEREST RATES, THEN LET'S REDUCE IT. IF THE BUDGET MUST BE SQUEEZED, THEN LET'S DO IT AND DO IT FAIRLY. IF TAXES MUST GO UP, THEN LET'S RAISE THEM AND DO THAT FAIRLY, TOO.

AND IF THIS ADMINISTRATION WON'T LEVEL WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, THEN LET'S REPLACE IT WITH ONE THAT WILL.

AMERICA NEEDS AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF US. BUT WHILE THE REPUBLICANS HAVE RULED THE ROOST, THEY'VE GIVEN THEIR RICH FRIENDS A MONOPOLY ON THE AMERICAN DREAM.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, TAXES FOR THE WEALTHY HAVE BEEN SLASHED. SIX MILLION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PUSHED INTO POVERTY BY AN ADMINISTRATION THAT OPERATES ON THE THEORY OF SURVIVAL OF THE RICHEST. WELL, THAT'S NOT MY IDEA OF FAIRNESS. ~~THE AMERICAN DREAM BELONGS TO ALL OF US. TOGETHER, WE MUST BUILD~~

THE AMERICAN DREAM BELONGS TO ALL OF US. TOGETHER, WE MUST BUILD AN ECONOMY WHERE NO ^{ONE} ~~ONE~~ IS LEFT BEHIND. ^{WHERE NO ONE IS} ~~AND~~ TOLD THAT ^{HIS} ~~THEIR~~ DAY HAS PASSED.

THAT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR OUR OLDER AMERICANS WHO'VE WORKED A LIFETIME AND ASK ONLY THAT THEIR SENIOR YEARS ARE ONES OF DIGNITY.

BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION CAN'T SEEM TO KEEP ITS HANDS OFF SOCIAL SECURITY. JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, THE PRESIDENT'S COUNSELOR, ED MEESE, AGAIN CRITICIZED THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, SAYING IT ONCE WAS AN INSURANCE PROGRAM, BUT NOW IT'S "SIMPLY A TAXATION AND BENEFITS PROGRAM."

WELL, LET ME TELL ED MEESE SOMETHING: SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT JUST ANOTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. IT IS A COMPACT BETWEEN THE GENERATIONS. AND IF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS PLANS TO TAMPER WITH THAT SYSTEM -- AND I FEAR THEY DO -- THEN THE TIME TO COME CLEAN, MR. MEESE, IS NOT IN JANUARY, 1985, BUT NOW.

JUST AS OUR PARENTS DID NOT BREAK FAITH WITH US, WE WILL NOT BREAK FAITH WITH THEM. ASSURING THEIR SECURITY IS PART OF BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL OF US. *///*

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN ALSO MEANS THAT WE MUST PRESERVE OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM. FRITZ MONDALE AND I STAND WITH GOVERNOR COLLINS, AND KENTUCKY'S SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, ^{ALICE} ~~ALICE~~ MCDONALD ON THIS ISSUE. WE KNOW A SOUND EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO OPENING NEW DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA. *///*

WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, MY MOTHER WORKED HARD IN THE GARMENT DISTRICT SO THAT I COULD GO TO SCHOOL AND MOVE AHEAD. LATER, I

TAUGHT IN NEW YORK'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY DAY, AND WENT TO LAW SCHOOL BY
NIGHT. ^{had} EDUCATION MADE THE DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE.

I'M SURE THAT'S TRUE FOR MANY OF YOU, AS WELL.

UNFORTUNATELY, UNDER RONALD REAGAN, OUR SCHOOLS HAVE HAD A
RIVER OF RHETORIC, BUT ONLY A TRICKLE OF SUPPORT.

INSTEAD OF HELPING STUDENTS AND PAYING TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH,
MR. REAGAN WANTS TO LAUNCH TEACHERS INTO SPACE.

THE ONLY THING I WORRY ABOUT IF WE SEND TEACHERS INTO SPACE
IS THAT THEY MAY RUN INTO THIS ADMINISTRATION'S MILE HIGH DEFICITS.
AND WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ANY GOOD TEACHERS.

* * * * *

TACKLING THE DEFICITS. RESTORING FAIRNESS TO GOVERNMENT.
PROTECTING OUR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PRESERVING OUR EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM -- THESE ARE THE CHALLENGES WE MUST FACE TOGETHER. LIKE
A FAMILY, WE MUST MEET THEM TOGETHER. BUT THERE IS ONE CHALLENGE
THAT OVERSHADOWS ALL OF THEM: WE MUST BUILD A MORE ENDURING PEACE
FOR OUR CHILDREN.

THE REAGAN RECORD IS PAINFULLY CLEAR. HE HAS OPPOSED EVERY ARMS CONTROL ^{treaty} ~~AGREEMENT~~ EVER NEGOTIATED. ~~PERIOD~~ AND HE'S THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE THE DAWN OF THE NUCLEAR AGE NOT TO ENTER INTO AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT.

WHILE WE'VE FUNNELLED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO UNNECESSARY NUCLEAR WEAPONS, OUR CONVENTIONAL STRENGTH HAS DECLINED. TENSIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAVE BEEN RAISED, ~~TO A FEVER PITCH~~. WE'VE SENT TROOPS TO CENTRAL AMERICA AND TURNED OUR BACK ON NEGOTIATIONS. AND OUR YOUNG MEN -- OVER 250 OF THEM -- WERE SENT TO BEIRUT ON A MISSION WITH NO PURPOSE, AND ^{TO THEIR DEATH FOR} ~~NO REASON~~ NO REASON.

A PRESIDENT MUST KNOW WHERE TO USE FORCE AND WHEN, BUT HE MUST ALSO KNOW WHERE IT SHOULD NOT BE USED. LET'S SEND IN THE DIPLO-
MATS BEFORE THE MARINES. LET'S TRY NEGOTIATION BEFORE CONFRONTATION.
LET'S UNDERSTAND THE WORLD BEFORE WE ARM IT. AND LET'S BE SURE THE
NEXT TIME WE SEND OUR MEN INTO COMBAT WE HAVE A GOOD REASON TO
~~SEND THEM~~ do so.

AMERICANS BELIEVE IN STRENGTH AND MILITARY READINESS. WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE SOVIETS. BUT AMERICANS NOT ONLY WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL STAND UP TO THE SOVIETS. THEY WANT A PRESIDENT WHO ALSO WILL SIT DOWN WITH THEM AND NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE.

AMERICANS DON'T WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL TURN THE HEAVENS INTO
A NEW BATTLEGROUND. THEY WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL END THE ARMS RACE
HERE ON EARTH.

* * * * *

WITH ALL OF OUR DIFFERENCES AS AMERICANS, WE SHARE A COMMON
DREAM: TO LEAVE OUR CHILDREN A BETTER AND A SAFER WORLD, TO OPEN DOORS
FOR THEM JUST AS OUR PARENTS DID FOR US.

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD AN AMERICAN FUTURE WHERE OUR CHILDREN
WILL BE FREE FROM THE BURDEN OF DEBT, AND OUR PARENTS WILL LIVE
WITH DIGNITY.

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD AN AMERICAN FUTURE WHERE OUR EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM MEETS THE NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN FOR JOB TRAINING AND SKILLS.

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD AN AMERICAN FUTURE WHERE WOMEN AND MEN
STAND EQUAL UNDER THE LAW.

AND TOGETHER, WE CAN LIFT THE SHADOW OF FEAR AS WE STEP
BACK FROM THE NUCLEAR BRINK.

BUT THE TIME TO BEGIN THAT WORK IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO KEEP SOCIAL SECURITY SAFE IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO CLEAN UP TOXIC WASTE DUMPS IS NOT LATER. IT'S

NOW.

THE TIME TO MAKE THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT PART OF OUR
CONSTITUTION IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

AND THE TIME TO ELECT FRITZ MONDALE IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

LET'S GO OUT THERE AND WIN THIS ELECTION. NOT LATER, BUT NOW.